

January 20, 2015 District 4 GSR meeting

Present: Eric, GSR, Only Requirement Group, Greenfield; Dave, After the 11th Hour Group, South Deerfield; Jean, GSR, Making Progress Group, South Amherst; Dana, GSR, Saturday Night Live Group, South Deerfield; Ruby, Co-DCM; Peter M., GSR, Sunday Night Life, Haydenville; KC, Alternate GSR, Chapman Street Group; Kim C., GSR, Amherst Monday Night; Tania H., GSR, 11th Step Meditation Group, Florence; Aprile, GSR Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group; Felix, GSR Florence IOpener; Patti, DCM; Mark, Alternate Delegate; Paul, Area Chair; Carl, Redistricting Ad-Hoc Committee.

Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer

Patti read Introduction to the 12 Concepts in the Service Manual. Includes Right of Decision (representative of the group, but has right to vote based on any new information given), Right of Participation (anyone can participate in any committee), Right of Appeal (minority voice needs to be heard), and Right of Petition. General principles, meant to be structurally safe, but allow flexibility. Proposed changes are made experimental (temporary); if real changes are made, they are made as amendments in order to preserve a record of the original. There is a What a Concept meeting held at Intergroup the first Thursday each month at 7 pm. District 6 did a workshop on the Concepts.

Mark did a presentation on the role of the GSR. The main responsibility of a GSR is to learn and communicate information between group and GSO. GSR represents their group at District meetings, assemblies, and mini-conferences, and connects group to the area. GSR studies the traditions, concepts and guidelines of the Area handbook to best serve this role. Organizational chart is an inverted pyramid with groups at the head. The General Service conference meets yearly in April, and includes area delegates, and trustees.

GSR Reports:

Tania: Good attendance, would like to go to NERASA and would like to see if anyone else is going to share expenses. Received a contribution letter from GSO that she would like to discuss with the group. Will be put in new business.

Kim: Attendance fluctuates with student population. Would also like to hear from those who are attending NERASA. Elected new officers. People are interested in the workshop about how to run a business meeting. They are trying to simplify green card language.

Felix: Group just celebrated anniversary—good attendance, about 100 people. Meeting is lease holder for space where a lot of other meetings take place.

Eric: Group is celebrating 1st anniversary on March 1, potluck at 5 pm. Trying to support Greenfield groups. Beginner's meeting on Tuesday night is struggling. Wants to talk about how to get meetings interested in participating in the Area. Will be put in new business.

Peter: Strong attendance, group okayed GSR travel to NERASA.

KC: Alternate GSR for Chapman Street; 7 pm on Fridays. 2 speaker meeting; small group with large meeting. Do a lot of commitments; lots of service positions open.

Jean; Some communication problems with the church; sometimes no heat or sidewalks not shoveled. 1st Tuesday of each month have a Soldier On commitment, building 26, 1st floor, VA hospital. The commitment could use some support, and everyone is welcome.

Dana; Saturday Night Live in South Deerfield, open speaker meeting. Changed time to 7-8; will hold elections soon.

Aprile: Large meeting serving mostly beginners, but with good long-term sobriety as well. Will have elections this month, and will also review the format.

Patti reported on District business and the area meeting: Will be pick up 10 new GSR packets as loaners next week. Will be billed to last year's budget. Will also purchase more service manuals for use at the meeting. Please bring your service manual to the meeting if you can. International convention in Atlanta; Massachusetts is sponsoring a hospitality suite. If you are going and want to volunteer, let Patti know. District 4 has a space on the web page that we are not using—what do we want to do with this space? To be discussed at the next meeting. Archives Open House was held last week. They will be putting together a report on the cost of the new computer.

Paul reported as Area Chair: He has a list of committee email addresses for anyone who wants one. The Mini-conference will be held March 28 and 29; anyone can go, but it is particularly important for GSRs to attend. 2016 NERASA will be in Springfield. Planning meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at the Sheraton in Springfield. The Area Committee is available to come to your group on commitments to talk about service. Please let him know if you are interested. The Area also is able to facilitate group inventories by connecting groups with past Delegates. Concept and Tradition meetings are held once a month at the Intergroup Office. Check the website or the front of the When and Where for days and times.

Carl reported on re-districting process. Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to look into whether Area 31 should do some re-districting. Some districts (like District 4) are very large, and there is a feeling that participation might increase if the districts were smaller. Committee has had two meetings and has decided to go to district meetings to see what people think about the idea of re-districting. How can we increase participation? There are 301 groups in the Area, and generally only 10% have GSRs that participate. District 4 has 8 GSRs from this meeting out of 55 groups (@14%, so higher than normal). The DCMs and LCM are all from different areas, so right now, District 4 is getting out to different meetings. Would more people participate if they didn't have to travel so far? Should we ask groups? Possibility of establishing a Spanish-speaking district.

Old Business

None

New Business

Tania wanted to discuss letter she received about contributions to GSO (the 11th Step Meditation meeting gives their 7th tradition to the lease holder) and the relationship between satellite meetings and their lease holders. She was advised to take it to her business meeting or to the business meeting of the lease holder.

Eric wanted to discuss putting on a service day. This was tabled to next meeting

Meeting closed at 9:00